

**November 1999**

**INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

by Mark Legendre

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die". This is the statement that Ezekial makes in Ezekial 18:20 and it points out the fact that each one of us is responsible for his or her own life. Regardless of the influences that we come under in our daily lives from various sources (TV / Parents / Friends, Etc.), when all is said and done God will still hold us accountable for how we have lived our lives on earth. In 2 Corinthians 5:10 Paul says "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be for good or bad." I don't know about you, but I personally would not have it any other way. If I make it to Heaven, it will be because I have chosen to live the way God instructed me to live regardless of the influences that I have come under during my lifetime. So often today we hear people not wanting to accept responsibility for their actions. They want to blame their parents or society for the way they have turned out. Criminals are found "not guilty" for crimes they commit because they are only the "product of the environment" they were raised in. In spite of this, God still says "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." The sooner we accept responsibility for our lives, the better off we will be. We can then get around to the business of living the way our Lord has commanded us to live and then go to Heaven when we die!

---

**THE MOUSE WHO WAS AFRAID**

Retold by Catherine T. Bryce

Sometimes the size and strength of a body mean less than the kind of heart it carries inside. All the muscle in the world can't make up the heart that's not brave.

Once there was a little gray mouse. He lived in the same house as an old gray cat. The mouse was afraid of the cat.

"How happy I would be but for that old cat," he said. "I am afraid of her all the time. I wish I were a cat."

A fairy heard the little mouse say this. She felt sorry for him. So she turned him into a big gray cat.

At first he was very happy. But one day a dog ran after him.

"Oh dear!" he said. "It is not much fun to be a cat. I am afraid of that dog all the time. I wish I were a big dog."

Again the fairy heard him. She felt sorry for the old gray cat. so she turned him into a big dog.

Once more he felt happy. Then one day he heard a lion roar.

"Oh, just hear that lion!" he cried. "I am afraid when I hear him. It is not safe to be a dog after all. How I wish I were a lion. Then I would not be afraid of no one."

Off he ran to the fairy.

"Dear fairy," he said, "please turn me into a big, strong lion."

Again the fairy was sorry for him. She made him into a big, strong lion.

One day a man tried to kill the lion. Once more he ran to the fairy.

"What now?" asked the fairy.

"Make me into a man, dear fairy," he cried. "Then no one can make me afraid."

"Make you into a man!" cried the fairy. "NO, indeed, I will not. A man must have a brave heart. You only have the heart of a mouse. So a mouse you shall become again, and a mouse you shall stay."

So saying, she turned him back into a little gray mouse, and away he ran to his old home.

**I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENETH ME!" Phil. 4:13**

---

### MAKING CHOICES IN LIFE by Mark Legendre

Life is filled with choices that we must make. Some of these choices are not all that important. Things such as what tooth paste you will use or what kind of shoes you will wear are really not all that significant. But many of the choices that we make in life are very important and will have a direct bearing on whether or not we make it to Heaven when we die. In these choices, we must be wise. The question that we need to ask ourselves when it comes time to make these significant choices in life is this; HOW WILL THIS CHOICE AFFECT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

For example, who are you going to marry? Because of the high divorce rate in America, it appears that not much thought is being put into this important decision by many people today. Even Christians are not being as careful as they should in making this choice. I am not saying it is wrong for a Christian to marry a non Christian; I myself was not a Christian when my wife, who was a Christian married me. But still, it is not the wisest course of action for a Christian to take. A religiously divided home can make for serious problems down the road and a divided influence for the children to try to figure out.

What kind of friends will you keep in life? This is another important choice that has to be made. Paul tells us in Corinthians 15:33 ". . . evil companions corrupt good morals." Our friends may turn us away from our God and His word. What

about our children's friends? Who do we let them spend time with? We may not be able to control this situation after our children leave home, but while they are at home we certainly can.

Where will you live is another important choice to make. I know of a young man who turned down a lucrative contract with a professional baseball team because there was no place to worship where they were first going to send him. This young man had his priorities straight.

Joshua 24:15 says "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve . . .". When we make this most important choice, we are CHOOSING OUR ETERNAL DESTINY AS WELL!